

Notice of Service of Process

null / ALL Transmittal Number: 18207087 Date Processed: 05/22/2018

Primary Contact:

State Farm Enterprise SOP

Corporation Service Company- Wilmington, DELAWARE

251 Little Falls Dr

Wilmington, DE 19808-1674

Entity:

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company

Entity ID Number 3461650

Entity Served:

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company

Title of Action:

James Allen Miller, Jr. vs. State Farm Fire and Casualty Company

Document(s) Type:

Summons/Complaint

Nature of Action:

Contract

Court/Agency:

Frederick County Circuit Court, Virginia

Case/Reference No:

CL18-119

Jurisdiction Served:

Virginia

Date Served on CSC:

05/22/2018

Answer or Appearance Due:

21 Days

Originally Served On:

csc

How Served:

Personal Service

Sender Information:

Clinton R. Ritter 540-662-7175

Information contained on this transmittal form is for record keeping, notification and forwarding the attached document(s). It does not constitute a legal opinion. The recipient is responsible for interpreting the documents and taking appropriate action.

To avoid potential delay, please do not send your response to CSC

251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808-1674 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscglobal.com



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



FREDERICK CIRCUIT COURT
Civil Division
5 N. KENT STREET
WINCHESTER VA 22601
(540) 665-5659

Summons

To: STATE FARM FIRE CASUALTY CO SERVE: REGISTERED AGENT CORPORATION SERVICE CO BANK OF AMERICA CENTER,16TH FL 1111 E. MAIN STREET RICHMOND VA 23219 Case No. 069CL18000119-00

The party upon whom this summons and the attached complaint are served is hereby notified that unless within 21 days after such service, response is made by filing in the clerk's office of this court a pleading in writing, in proper legal form, the allegations and charges may be taken as admitted and the court may enter an order, judgment, or decree against such party either by default or after hearing evidence.

Appearance in person is not required by this summons.

Done in the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia on, Monday, May 21, 2018

Clerk of Court: REBECCA P. HOGAN

CCA T.

Instructions:

Hearing Official:

Attorney's name:

RITTER, CLINTON R 205 E. BOSCAWEN STREET WINCHESTER VA 22601 VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY

JAMES ALLEN MILLER, JR., PLAINTIFF,

٧

STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY, DEFENDANT.

Serve: Corporation Service Company, Registered Agent Bank of America Center, 16th Floor 1111 East Main St. Richmond, VA 23219

COMPLAINT

COUNT I BREACH OF CONTRACT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, James Allen Miller, Jr., and for Count I of his complaint states and avers as follows:

- 1. Your Plaintiff purchased real estate improved with 2 dwellings (structures), by deed dated the 17th day of October, 2014 from Rennle Ruble; a copy of said deed is attached hereto as "Exhibit 1", and Plaintiff prays that it be read as a part hereof.
- 2. Shortly thereafter, and prior to March 2, 2016, plaintiff requested that the defendant, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, insure said property for loss from fire and/or other causes.
- 3. Prior to March 2, 2016 Defendant agreed to insure said property for loss by fire; a copy of the declaration page for the subject policy, number 46-CC-V683-1, is attached hereto as "Exhibit 2" and by this reference prayed to be read as a part hereof.
- 4. Your plaintiff paid his premiums timely, on said property, and in compliance with the terms of said insurance contract.
 - 5. On the 2nd day of March, 2016, plaintiff suffered a loss on the insured

property by a fire, which occurred on said premises.

- 6. The damages caused by the ssaid fire were estimated, by estimate done at defendant's request, to be in the amount of \$105,387.42; a copy of the said estimate is attached hereto as Plaintiff's "Exhibit 3" and prayed to be read as a part hereof.
- 7. Plaintiff secured the services of Greg Unger Builders to provide an estimate for damages which was 112,611.00; a copy attached hereto as "Exhibit 4".
- 8. Defendant refused to make payment for said damages, without just cause or reasonable basis.
- 9. Defendant breached the said insurance contract by failing to cooperate with the Frederick County, Virginia Fire Marshall in violation of Virginia Code Sections 27-85.3 through 27-85.6.
- 10. Defendant breached the said contract in violation Virginia Code Section 38.2-510
- 11. Defendant breached the terms of the said insurance contract and refused to make payment, causing great financial harm and damages to plaintiff.
- 12. Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against defendant for One Hundred Five Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven 42/100 Dollars (\$105,387.42) in damages for breach of contract.

COUNT II

BAD FAITH SETTLEMENT

(Breach of implied duty of good faith and fair dealings)

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, James Allen Miller, Jr., and for Count II (Bad Faith Settlement) of his complaint states and avers as follows:

- 1. The plaintiff adopts all the allegations set forth in Count I of this Complaint and prays that it be read as a part hereof.
- 2. On the 2nd day of March, 2016 the Frederick County, Virginia's Fire Marshall's Office, with five (5) Fire Marshalls, investigated the fire at the Plaintiff's property.

- 3. All five (5) of the Fire Marshalls for Frederick County concluded that the fire was of undetermined origin.
 - 4. The Frederick County Fire Marshall's Office made no finding of arson.
- 5. The Chief of the Frederick County Fire Marshall's, William Pifer, III, met with an investigator, William Niemann, of Fire Technology Consultants, retained and/or employed by the defendant, at the scene of the fire on the plaintiff's property, a few days after the said fire.
- About a week after the fire the Defendant's investigator, William Niemann, took samples of materials from the unsecured building to be sent to a laboratory for testing.
- 7. The Frederick County Fire Marshall requested in August, 2016, in writing, a copy of any Information the defendant may have in its possession, in reference to this fire.
- 8. The defendant, through its employees, agents, and persons acting on its behalf or at its direction, failed to send a copy of the lab report and any other information in their possession in reference to this fire to the Frederick County Fire Marshall's Office; see the letter attached hereto dated January 30, 2018, and prayed to be read as a part hereof, marked (Exhibit 5). In so doing the defendant acted in bad faith in violation of Virginia Code Section 27-85.3 through section 27-85.6.
- 9. The defendant has not sent a copy of the lab report or any information in reference to the fire to the plaintiff.
 - 10. The defendant alleges that the fire was of an incendiary nature.
- 11. The plaintiff states and avers that this property was originally a gas station for years and that materials of an incendiary nature were stored all over the property, including oil, gasoline, kerosene and other materials.
- 12. On May 7, 2016, the defendant sent a letter to the plaintiff, copy of which is attached hereto and prayed to be read as a part hereof (Exhibit 6). Although that letter states "enclosed is a check for \$87,592.50", there was no check enclosed.
- 13. However, the plaintiff continued to cooperate with the defendant, allowing his deposition to be taken on the 1st day of July, 2016 by the defendants lawyer.

- 14. The plaintiff continued to pay his insurance premiums for 2016 and all of 2017.
- 15. The defendant accepted the premiums, even after sending a letter of refusal to make payment for the damages or honor the contract.
- 16. The plaintiff continued to supply the defendant with requested information, including his tax returns, bank statements, business records, and even phone bills.
- 17. The defendant continued to delay settlement and waited ten (10) months to interview a material witness for the plaintiff.
- 18. Even if this was a case of arson, the defendant has no evidence that the plaintiff started this fire, either intentionally or unintentionally.
- 19. The defendant worked for over a year, not in an attempt to settle the plaintiff's claim, but to gather information to deny the claim, in violation of Virginia Code Section 38.2-510.
- 20. Pursuant to all the allegations setforth in paragraph numbers 1-12 of Count I, of your Plaintiff's Complaint, and all the allegations setforth in Count II, of your Plaintiff's Complaint, your plaintiff states and avers that the defendant acted in bad faith. The defendant refused to fulfill a contractual obligation, the defendant's actions were wrong with dishonest intent and constitutes a willful tort.
- 21. Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against defendant for Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars, (\$350,000.00) in punitive damages.

COUNT III

COMPENSATORY DAMAGES

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, James Allen Miller, Jr., and for Count III of his complaint states and avers as follows:

- 1. The plaintiff adopts all the allegations setforth in paragraphs 1–12 of Count I of this Complaint and all the allegations setforth in paragraphs 1-21 of Count II, of your Plaintiff's Complaint, and prays that they be made a part hereof.
- 2. The defendant breached the terms of the contract without just cause or excuse and committed a willful tort.
 - 3. The plaintiff has lost rental income at the rate of \$1,000.00 per month for 18

months, due to the defendant's failure to pay for damages in accordance with the terms of the insurance contract.

- 4. The plaintiff had to obtain the services of an attorney to file this law sult, because of the defendant's failure to honor the insurance contract.
- 5. Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against the defendant for Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00) in lost rental income and pursuant Virginia Code Section 38.2-209, plaintiff is entitled for judgment in attorney's fees in the amount of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00)

WHEREFORE, as to Count I, your plaintiff requests judgment against the defendant in the amount of One Hundred Five Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven 42/100 Dollars (\$105,387.42), plus court costs, for breach of contract; and, as to Count II, the plaintiff demands judgment against the defendant for acting in bad faith and requests punitive damages against the defendant in the amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00); and, as to Count III, the plaintiff requests judgment for attorney's fees in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00); and, the plaintiff requests judgment for loss of rental income in the amount of eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000.00), as compensatory damages.

1

ohn N. Bradley, Esquire

VSB # 75953

205 East Boscawen Street Winchester, Virginia 22601

540-545-8070

Counsel for Plaintiff

FRED. CO. CLERKS OFFICE RESECCIA P. HOGATICLEN

Clinton R. Ritter, Esquire

VSB # 12088

205 East Boscawen Street Winchester, Virginia 22601

540-662-7175 Counsel for Plaintiff

AFFIDAVIT

COMMONWEALTH AT LARGE, at Large City of Winchester, to-wit

Personally appeared before me, James Allen Miller, Jr., on this 16th day of February, 2018, and after being placed under oath, states and avers that all the allegation setforth in Counts I, II and III of his Complaint against State Farm Fire and Casualty Company are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2018

DEBRA J. RITTER
NOTARY PUBLIC
Commonwealth of Virginia
Reg. #184016 2/23/8633

...

My Commission Expires: 02/28/2022

Registration No.: 184016

CERTIFICATE

I, John N. Bradley and Clinton R. Ritter, Counsels for Plaintiff, do hereby certify that we mail, by U.S. First Class Postal Service, a true and exact copy of the foregoing Complaint to Corporation Service Company, Bank of America Center, 16th Floor, 1111 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, Registered Agent for State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, on this 20th day of February, 2018.

Clinton R. Ritter, Esquire

DEED

THIS DEED, made this May of October, 2014, by and between Rennie RUBLE, GRANTOR; and James A. MILLER, JR., GRANTEE;

WITNESSETH:

THAT, for and in consideration of the sum of TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the GRANTOR does hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey, in fee simple and with General Warranty and English Covenants of Title, unto the GRANTEE, the following property:

ALL THAT certain lot or parcel of land containing one (1) acre, more or less, lying and being situate on the western side of Virginia-U.S. Highway 522, about nineteen miles northwest of Winchester, in Gainesboro Magisterial District, Frederick County, Virginia.

AND BEING the same property conveyed to the Grantor herein by Quitclaim Deed dated February 12, 2014 and recorded February 12, 2014 as Instrument Number 140001139, as to ½ interest and by Deed dated February 21, 2007, and recorded March 5, 2007, as Instrument Number 070003639, as to ½ interest, both deeds are recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office.

This conveyance is made subject to covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements and rights of way of record.

The GRANTOR covenants that said GRANTOR has the right to convey the aforesaid property; that the GRANTOR has done no act to encumber said property; that the GRANTOR will execute such further assurances as may be requisite.

Consideration: \$30,000.00 Assessed Value: \$87,900.00

Tax Map #: 06-A-37

Insured by: Old Republic National Title Insurance Company

Grantees' address: 9794 North Frederick Pike, Cross Junction, VA 22625

"EXHIBIT 1"

WITNESS the following signature and seal:

(Seal)

STATE OF VIRGINIA CITY OF WINCHESTER

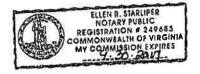
I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, do certify that Rennie Ruble, whose names is signed to the foregoing document, acknowledged the same before me this 17th day of October, 2014.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9.30.2017

Registration #: 249683

Prepared by and return to: **Briel PC Attorneys** Michael E. Briel VSB# 28003 12 W. Gerrard Street Winchester, VA 22601 VA14-10-263-W



VIRGINIA: FREDERICK COUNTY.SC1. This instrument of writing was produced to me on

and with certificate acknowledgement thereto annexed was admitted to record. Tax imposed by Sec. 58.1-802 of and 58.1-801 have been paid, if assessable.



OFFICIAL RECEIPT FREDERICK CIRCUIT COURT DEED RECEIPT

DATE: 10/20/14 TIME: 11:39:15 ACCOUNT: 069CLR140008833 RECEIPT: 14000018349
CASHIER: KJS REG: WE17 TYPE: DBS PAYMENT: FULL PAYMENT
INSTRUMENT: 140008833 BOOK: PAGE: RECORDED: 10/20/14 AT 11:39
GRANTOR: RUBLE, RENNIE EX: N LOC: CO
GRANTEE: MILLER, JAMES A; JR EX: N PCT: 100%
AND ADDRESS: 9794 NORTH FREDERICK PIKE CROSS JUNCTION, VA. 22625
RECEIVED OF: BRIEL/APRIL DATE OF DEED: 10/17/14
CHECK: \$424.00
PESCRIPTION 1: GA DIST: PAGEE: 2.0B: 0
NAMEE: 0

DESCRIPTION L. GA.DISD. 2011 VI 22 PARCEL OF LAND ONE DERATION: 30,000.00 A/VAL: 87,900.00 MAP: 06-A-37 PIN: 14.50 145 VSLF 1.50 301 DEEDS 44.00 220 GRANTOR TAX 219.75 213 COUNTY GRANTEE TAX 038 DEEDS OF CONV. 44.00 73.25 DEEDS & CONTRACTS 039 1.00 106 TECHNOLOGY TRST FND 5.00 212 TRANSFER FEE 1.00 035 VOF FEE TENDERED : 424.00 036 DEED PROCESSING FEE 20.00 AMOUNT PAID: 424.00 CHANGE AMT :

CLERK OF COURT: REBECCA P. HOGAN

PAYOR'S COPY RECEIPT COPY 1 OF 2

DECLARATIONS

We will provide the insurance described in this policy in return for the premium | STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY | and compliance with all applicable | 1500 STATE FARM BLVD | 1500 STA

46-CC-V683-1 Policy Number

Named Insured and Mailing Address MILLER, JAMES ALLEN JR 9897 N FREDERICK PIKE CROSS JCT, VA 22625-1516

|Coverage afforded by this policy is | provided by:

|A Stock Company with Home Offices in | -----Bloomington, Illinois.

The Policy Period begins and ends at | Automatic Renewal - If the Policy 12:01 a.m. Standard Time at the residence | Period is shown as 12 months, this premises.

01/21/2015 Effective Date

Limit of Liability - Section 1 \$ 167,000 Dwelling (Coverage A)

Policy Type. Homeowners Policy Dwell Repl Cost - Similar Construction | applied per occurrence and will be

Location of Premises 9897 N FREDERICK PIKE CROSS JCT, VA 22625-1516

|policy will be renewed auto-|matically subject to the premiums, rules and forms in effect each 12months-Policy Period | succeeding policy period. If this 01/21/2016 Expiration of Policy Period | policy is terminated, we will give -----you and the Mortgagee/Lienholder [written notice in compliance with the policy provisions or as required by law.

-----|Deductibles - Section 1 \$1000 ALL LOSSES In case of loss under |this policy, the deductible will be | ------|loss. Other deductibles may apply |- refer to your policy.

{ ______

|Policy Premium \$730.00

Forms, Options, & Endorsements

FP-7155.5 HOMEOWNERS LSP A1 SMLR CONST-A
LSP B1 LMT RPLC COST-B OPT ID COV A-INCR DWLG
FE-1357 FDSC INCREASE FE-3539 HO-W POL END
FE-2369 AMENDATORY END

Agent Name & Address CLAYTON JR, TALMADGE D 158 FRONT ROYAL PIKE STE WINCHESTER, VA 22602-4324 (540)665-1766

Loan Number:

559-916.5

Prepared: Octo! "EXHIBIT 2"

9D34

Agent's Code

MORTGAGEE COPY

. (50

Claim Rep Draft

46-825K-396 MILLER, JAMES MILLER, JAMES Insured: Estimate: 46-825K-396 9897 N Frederick Pike Property: Claim Number: 46825K396 Cross Jct, VA 22625-1516 Policy Number: 46-CC-V683-1 540-533-6580 Cellular: Price List: VAWI28 MAR16 Type of Loss: Fire Restoration/Service/Remodel Deductible: \$0.00 Date of Loss: 3/2/2016 Date Inspected: 3/2/2016 Summary for Coverage A - Dwelling - 33 Fire, Lightning, & Removal 82,860.68 Line Item Total 1,449.05 Material Sales Tax 84,309.73 Subtotal 12,646,52 General Contractor Overhead 8,431.17 General Contractor Profit 105,387.42 Replacement Cost Value (Including General Contractor Overhead and Profit) (14,235.82)Less Depreciation (Including Taxes) Less General Contractor Overhead & Profit on Recoverable & Non-recoverable Depreciation (3,559.10)(0.00)Less Deductible \$87,592.50 Net Actual Cash Value Payment Maximum Additional Amounts Available If Incurred: Total Line Item Depreciation (Including Taxes) 14,235.82 3,559.10 General Contractor O&P on Depreciation 17,794.92 Replacement Cost Benefits 17,794.92 Total Maximum Additional Amount Available If Incurred \$105,387,42 Total Amount of Claim If Incurred James, Amy ALL AMOUNTS PAYABLE ARE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND

LIMITS OF YOUR POLICY.

"EXHIBIT 3"

5/7/2016 3:32 PM

Greg Unger Builders 668 Germany Road Stephens City, Va 22655 540-974-0719

James Miller 9897 North Frederick Pike Winchester, Va. 22602

Remodel of house after fire

(1) Permits		2500.00
(2) Demo of part of house where fire destroyed		
clean up debris, haul away junk, and dumpster	27	10200.00
(3) Material, windows, doors, framing material, and interior doors		9056.00
(4) Labor to rebuild		22975.00
(5) Electric		6505.00
(6) Plumbing	25	7550.00
(7) HVAC		7000.00
(8) Metal standing seam roofing and labor		13500.00
(9) Paneling and install	40	7200.00
(10)Trim		675.00
(11)Trim labor		2600.00
(12)Paint and labor		3200.00
(13)Flooring, vinyl, and carpet	70	3200.00
(14)Insulation		3300.00
(15)Siding and soffice		7550.00
(16)Light-fixtures	990	2200.00
(17)Finish hardware		800.00
(18)Sheetrock ceiling and labor		2600.00

Totai 112611.00

James A Miller SR Claim # 46-825K-396

"EXHIBIT 4"



John J. Bauserman Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Life Safety Division OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

1080 Coverstone Drive Winchester, VA 22602 www.fcva.us/fmo

January 30, 2018

Clinton R. Ritter Attorney at Law 205 East Boscawen Street Winchester, VA 22601

Re: James Allen Miller, Jr.

Fire

Dear Mr. Ritter,

In response to your letter dated January 26, 2018, regarding your statement "At our meeting at your office, you stated that to your knowledge your office never forwarded any new information during the summer of 2016, or thereafter, to State Farm Fire and Casualty Company." As a point of clarification, during the meeting on July 27, 2017 at our office, I explained that copies of our reports had been sent to State Farm via FOIA requests. What was discussed during the meeting was that at no time did we present material to State Farm that suggested we believed the cause of this fire to be incendiary in nature.

To date, State Farm has obtained copies of our engine company fire report and investigation report, to include scene photographs via FOIA requests. You can obtain copies of these documents by submitting a FOIA Request to https://frederickcountyva.nextrequest.com/.

In a letter dated, August 1, 2016 to Pamela Riffe with State Farm from myself, "...pursuant to Article 3, "Arson Reporting Immunity Act", Code of Virginia Sections 27-85.3, 27-85.4, 27-85.5 and 27-85.6, we are requesting a copy of the applicable company information as detailed concerning the stated laws including but shall not be limited to the following information:

- 1. Pertinent insurance policy information relevant to a fire loss under investigation and any application for such a policy;
- Policy premium payment records;

"EXHIBIT 5"

3. History of previous claims made by the insured;

Life Safety (540) 665-6350

jbauserm@feva.us

- --- (340) 0/8-4739

4. Material relating to the investigation of the loss, including statements of any person, proof of loss, and any other evidence relevant to the investigation. To include but not limited to investigative reports, lab analysis, photos, witness interview transcripts or summaries.

This request for information was based solely on the content of a letter I received dated May 23, 2016 from Pamela Riffe with State Farm. Where she wrote "In compliance with Virginia Code Title 27, Section 85.3-85.5, we are informing you that this fire has been determined to be incendiary in nature by William Niemann of Fire Technology Consultants, LLC."

As of this date, we have not received any of the requested information.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call my office.

Sincerely:

William E. Pifer III
Assistant Fire Marshal

Cc: File

Life Safety (540) 665-6350

jbauserm@fcva.us

Fax (540) 678-4739

- State Farm

Explanation of Building Replacement Cost Benefits Homeowner Policy Coverage A - Dwelling - 33 Fire, Lightning, & Removal

To: Name:

MILLER, JAMES

Address:

9897 N Frederick Pike

City:

Cross Jct

State/Zip:

VA, 22625-1516

Insured:

MILLER, JAMES

Claim Number:

46825K396

Date of Loss:

3/2/2016

Cause of Loss:

FIRE

Your insurance policy provides replacement cost coverage for some or all of the loss or damage to your dwelling or structures. Replacement cost coverage pays the actual and necessary cost of repair or replacement, without a deduction for depreciation, subject to your policy's limit of liability. To receive replacement cost benefits you must:

- 1. Make a claim for any additional payment on a replacement cost basis within six months of either:
 - a. The last date you received an actual cash value payment; or
 - b. The date of entry of a final order asserting your right to replacement cost settlement; whichever is later,
- 2. Confirm completion of repair or replacement, by submitting invoices, receipts or other documentation to your agent or claim office.

Until these requirements have been satisfied, our payment(s) to you will be for the actual cash value of the damaged part of the property, which may include a deduction for depreciation.

Without walving the above requirements, we will consider paying replacement cost benefits prior to actual repair or replacement if we determine repair or replacement costs will be incurred because repairs are substantially under way or you present a signed contract acceptable to us.

The estimate to repair or replace your damaged property is \$105,387.42. The enclosed claim payment to you of \$87,592.50 is for the actual cash value of the damaged property at the time of loss, less any deductible that may apply.

We determined the actual cash value by deducting depreciation from the estimated repair or replacement cost. Our estimate details the depreciation applied to your loss. Based on our estimate, the additional amount available to you for replacement cost benefits (recoverable depreciation) is \$17,794.92.

If you cannot have the repairs completed for the repair/replacement cost estimated, please contact your claim representative prior to beginning repairs.

All policy provisions apply to your claim.

It is a crime to knowingly provide false, incomplete or misleading information to an insurance company for the purpose of defrauding the company. Penalties include imprisonment, fines and denial of insurance benefits.

"EXHIBIT 6"

FC0007182 11/3/2015

Page: 3

Date: 5/7/2016 3:32 PM